

Held together, Working together: Disputes and Forgiveness

Matthew 18: 15-20

Activity: making a balance (explore forgiveness vs revenge!)

Follow the link to Wikihow (<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Balance-Scale-for-Kids>) or follow the instructions below to make a simple balance scale.

You will need: a coat hanger with notches

some string

some paper or plastic cups

a hole punch

small rocks and stones

Punch 2 holes in the sides of two cups, making sure the holes are opposite each other.



Cut two equal lengths of string. Tie one piece of string to one of the cups, threading each end into the holes you have made and tying them on. Repeat with the other cup.

Hang the cups over the notches on the hanger to make your balance. Hang the balance over a door handle (or somewhere similar). The cups should sit level with each other and the hanger should be level too!



Put a stone into one of the cups. This is when someone hurts us or does something bad.

Put a stone into the other cup and try to balance the hurt out. Does this work? How many stones does it take in each cup before you have any balance? (You can add more cups if you need to.) Can you ever have balance? What happens if you take stones out?

Reflection for older children

Read Matthew 18 15-20

What does it make you think?

How do you and your friends deal with someone who has hurt you?

In the passage Jesus gave us a clear sequence to follow: First tell the person that they have hurt you, then if they're not listening tell one or two others so that they can be a witness and try again. Then tell the elders (church leaders, adults) so that they can mediate between you. If all that doesn't work, then break off relations with him/her.

Do we follow the same order? Anywhere close?

Why should we go to all that trouble WHEN WE WEREN'T THE ONE THAT STARTED IT???

No really, why?

What do you think Jesus meant when he said that what we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and what we loose on earth will be loosened in heaven?

Would that hold true if we were doing our own thing or does it only apply if we are in a group? Or does that group have to be faithfully following Christ?